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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00629 261305Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------025408 261309Z /46
O 261010Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 866

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0629

EXDIS

PASS TREASURY FOR SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (BLUMENTHAL, SECRETARY), EFIN, SA, US
SUBJECT: SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER ANSWER TO SECRETARY BLIMENTHAL

1. BLIMENTHAL LETTER ON POSSIBLE MEETING WITH SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER IN EUROPE WAS DELIVERED TO ABALKHAIL IN LONDON JANUARY 19. RESPONSE WAS DELIVERED JIDDA JANUARY 25 TO TREASURY OFFICIAL LEWIS BOWDEN. LETTER EAS DELIVERED SEALED AND WILL BE BROUGHT TO WASHINGTON IN THAT CONDITION.

2. SHORTLY AFTER DELIVERY OF LETTER RESPONSE, SAMA GOVERNOR AL-QURAISHI TELEPHONED BOWDEN AT EMBASSY JIDDA. HE GAVE HIM ORAL SUMMARY OF LETTER WHICH IN SHORT WAS THAT ABALKHAIL WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH SECRETARY BLIMENTHAL IN EUROPE AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. QURAISHI ADDED THAT ANY TIME BETWEEN FEBRUARY THREE (3) AND SEVENTEEN (17) WOULD BE FINE WITH SAUDI SIDE. HE ASKED FOR REASONABLE ADVANCE NOTICE AND SUGGESTION FOR SITE OF MEETING.

3. ABALKHAIL THEN CAME ON TELEPHONE AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SECRETARY AND THAT HE WOULD PLAN TO BRING WITH HIM QURAISHI AND
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DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER MANSOOR AL-TURKI. BOWDEN ASSURED ABALKHAIL HIS MESSAGE WOULD BE PASSED ELECTRON-ICALLY TO WASHINGTON SOONEST AND THAT TREASURY WOULD TRY TO GIVE HIM ANSWER DURING COURSE OF COMING WEEK.

4. COMMENT: SWIFTNESS OF SAUDI RESPONSE TO BLUMENTHAL INITIATIVE AND TONE OF ORAL MESSAGES FROM ABALKHAIL

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AND QURAISHI INDICATE SAUDIS ARE ANXIOUS TO HEAR
PERSONALLY FROM HIGHEST LEVELS IN TREASURY ABOUT RECENT
U.S . ACTIONS RESPECTING DOLLAR AND WHAT OUTLOOK IS.
WEST

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TREASURY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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